



Topic: Public Health Preparedness

The Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) was formally established in 2002 to coordinate development and implementation of Public Health and Medical Management Services preparedness and response to acts of bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies. The mission of the office has expanded to encompass “all hazards” preparedness and response. Funding for the program is provided exclusively through two federal cooperative agreements: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism and the Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA) Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program.

This program works to strengthen existing partnerships (through cooperative agreements) among public health, healthcare and emergency management planning communities; build and sustain an aggressive collaborative response to public health emergencies of any nature; and assure effective and efficient application of human, monetary and other resources, during a period of public health emergency response. Achievement of these goals will be evidenced by vertical and horizontal integration of planning, preparedness and response activities at all levels of government.

Planning and development activities must comply with the National Response Plan (NRP) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Two national and state priorities of the NRP that pertain to the state partnerships are Mass Prophylaxis and Medical Surge. An additional priority is intrastate regionalization of planning and response activities. At the MDCH, this regionalization occurred in 2002 as one of the HRSA bioterrorism funding requirements, and utilized the already established eight Michigan State Police Districts. Regional resources continue to expand but currently include: Regional Hospital/Prehospital Medical Directors, Regional Hospital/Prehospital Bioterrorism Coordinators, Regional Epidemiologists, Regional Laboratories, 45 Local Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinators who participate in the Regions, and the Regional Trauma System.

Additional information can be found at: www.michigan.gov/ophp.